

Case Study: Language Differences in the Challenges of New Students Adapting to the Indonesian University of Education Environment

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Abstract

This study examines the problems that exist in new students of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia regarding the problems of some Universitas Indonesia students from minority ethnic groups who have difficulty adapting because the language of instruction used is different from the language they use daily in their area. This research has the aim that we as students, both migrants and local students, know the differences in regional languages and also everyday languages that have an impact on adapting and how to deal with these problems. The research method we use is the Kualitatif method with interview techniques and literature studies. The location of this research was conducted at the Indonesian Education University with new students as informants consisting of different tribes.

Keywords: communication, language, ethnic

INTRODUCTION

Culture is everything that is related to the human mind and reason. Culture is also defined as a way of thinking, traditions, and things that have become habits and are difficult to change, such as habits in how to communicate with each other in their respective areas. Humans as social creatures certainly need tools to communicate with other creatures in the areas, they live in. We usually call it a tool for communicating with other humans. Language functions as the main communication tool used by humans in social interaction, culture, and in other aspects such as education with the aim of conveying intentions and ideas to other people. The diversity of languages certainly gives rise to many differences

on interactions between individuals and between groups. In Indonesia alone there are 700 or more regional languages used by various tribes in all regions of Indonesia

Language also certainly plays an important role in building almost all aspects of information and communication. Different cultures and characters in terms of communication certainly exist in every nation. So, it can influence the way we communicate every day. The use of language also influences the culture of a nation in the way it behaves, acts and thinks. Language has a very important role in communication. Language is the main tool in

communication, where the two have a strong and inseparable relationship, because language is used as a tool to convey ideas and feelings from one individual to another individual. Using good language will make it easier for the person we are talking to understand what we are saying, thus influencing the smooth course of communication. The use of language in communicating in each region is definitely different. so that individuals must be able to adapt when moving to another area, starting from the way they interact and communicate. This language difference is certainly a cultural richness as well as a challenge to communicate between tribes and regions when in other places. Like students who migrate to other areas to continue their education, they must be able to adapt starting from the way they behave and also communicate with the local community.

Language differences among students in the campus environment are a social phenomenon that is quite interesting to research, especially on the role of language as a means of communication and social identity. In a university of course students come from various regions with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, this causes language differences in the campus environment. Not only that, students also tend to use language that is influenced by interactions on campus and from social media.

This is also one of the causes of variations in the way of communication, which can affect the social life of students. Research on language differences has been widely carried out, with an emphasis on the social impact of language use.

The scientific novelty proposed in this article is to focus on the analysis of language differences in student interactions in the campus environment, especially for new students. Although there have been several studies on language differences in the general population, research that specifically highlights language differences among students in the campus environment is still limited. Therefore, this article aims to examine language differences focusing on the university environment and how language differences affect communication and social relationships for new students in the campus environment. In this case, the scientific novelty that we examine in this article is how the dynamics of language differences influence social interaction at the Indonesian University of Education, especially for new students.

METHOD

The method used for this research is a qualitative method. This research was conducted based on research objects that we obtained from several interview data and literature studies, namely what are the effects of language differences on students in the campus environment. The problem focuses on the influence of language differences in the campus environment. The data sources we use are interviews and collecting sources from articles related to the problem and research objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Migrant is an activity carried out by individuals, whether students, employees or entrepreneurs, who leave their home area without any coercion from any party because it is their own desire within a predetermined time period. Those who choose to migrate also have a goal, namely, wanting to improve their fate (Kojoh et al., 2022). Campus locations that are spread out and have different qualities are also a consideration for students who want to migrate. Migrant students generally want to study and make their dreams come true; therefore, these

students must be able to overcome all the obstacles they will face in the world of college. Migrants are also seen as an effort to prove an individual's quality as an independent person and can be responsible for himself (Debora et al., 2021).

The Indonesian University of Education itself certainly has a variety of migrant students from various regions in Indonesia. The new students who migrate have different cultures and backgrounds. The mixing of students from various regions is certainly not something new at universities in Indonesia, with more than 17,000 islands spread out, it is not surprising that there is a mix of students from various regions. This mixing of regions can give rise to cultural and linguistic differences. One of them is Bandung, a city on the island of Java which is also a destination city for migrants to get educated which attracts many people at various universities in the city, located in West Java, so the language often used by students is Sundanese. This cultural difference will definitely give rise to shock or culture shock among students, especially new students who have just arrived in their overseas city. At the beginning of his arrival, he certainly felt uncomfortable with the environment he had just arrived in. One form of culture shock that many new students feel is language. Not understanding and not understanding the language used around the campus environment is one of the obstacles for new students to adapt to their environment. (Hendrastomo & UNY, n.d.).

Various cultures and different regional languages also contribute to the language used daily by an individual. It cannot be denied that the diversity of regional languages contributes to the uniqueness of Indonesia, which is a wealth that must be protected. Each region has a unique language that reflects each region's uniqueness and characteristics (Julianti & Siagian, 2023). Communication is one way for students to interact with each other. Communication is of course very important to achieve successful adaptation in the campus environment, especially for new students. However, differences in cultural backgrounds, ethnicities and regional languages can hinder communication between students (Sapira et al., 2023).

From the results of research we have conducted in the campus environment, language is not the main barrier in communication, but language differences can still be a small obstacle, especially regarding the use of terms that are common in everyday life. Each region, especially in Sundanese land, has different vocabulary and distinctive intonations, which can cause difficulties when communicating between individuals with different language backgrounds. For example, terms commonly used in one area may have different meanings or may even be unknown in other areas. This can cause misunderstandings between students on campus. Therefore, although language in general is not a big problem, differences in the use of terms remain a small challenge that needs to be adjusted to keep communication running smoothly. Apart from that, based on the results of our research, students from Bangka Belitung, Palembang, Indramayu, and Medan felt confused by the softer and slower intonation of Sundanese, in contrast to their areas of origin who spoke louder and faster. Although this language difference does not hinder the overall learning process, in social interactions, this sometimes creates a feeling of awkwardness or worry about being misunderstood. Some new students admitted that they had difficulty understanding humor which was often delivered in Sundanese or with an intonation that was different from their habits, which had an impact on the social life of students, especially new students. They often feel insecure about opening up conversations with new friends, especially when they feel they don't understand the terms or conversations their friends are having. Some students also feel embarrassed and prefer to avoid interaction, which leads to a lack of interaction in adapting and missing information in the campus environment.

Apart from this, joking and teasing are also a small obstacle for new students in adapting. New students from outside Bandung revealed that they often felt confused by the way their friends' jokes. Like a more subtle way of joking, but it sounds like sarcasm that they don't find in their home area. This sometimes makes new students confused about whether the joke is serious or not. Meanwhile, in their area of origin,

they tend to be more overt, so if they misinterpret it, it will cause conflict.

Therefore, new students hope that they can adapt more quickly to their new environment, especially in terms of language. So that the solution that can be used to reduce this problem is that new students can play a more active role in interacting, such as opening up conversations and reducing feelings of awkwardness, and trying to understand the different ways of joking and communicating with each other, and new students from Bandung can be more sensitive and provide space for new students to learn and adapt, as well as being more tolerant of language difficulties experienced by new students from outside Bandung

CONCLUSION

Migrating to study outside your home area does bring its own challenges, especially for new students. The adaptation process faced by migrant students is often not only related to the physical and academic environment, but also to existing cultural and language differences. Cultural and linguistic diversity on campus, as is the case at the Indonesian University of Education, can give rise to its own difficulties, such as confusion in understanding local vocabulary and language intonation, which often hinders communication between students. Even though language is not the main obstacle in communicating, language differences remain a small challenge, especially in understanding terms or expressions typical of other regions. Students from outside Bandung, for example, often find it difficult to interact with classmates who speak colloquial Sundanese. The difference in softer intonation in Bandung compared to the louder way of speaking in their home region also adds to the challenge in understanding the meaning or humor conveyed. This can hinder social interaction, where new students feel awkward and tend to avoid chatting with classmates, which leads to a lack of interaction and missing out on information. For this reason, it is important for new students to overcome feelings of awkwardness and start actively communicating in order to speed up their adaptation process. One solution is to be braver in opening a conversation and trying to

understand the differences in language and ways of joking around you. In addition, students who have been on campus longer, especially those from Bandung, are expected to be more sensitive to the language difficulties experienced by new students and provide space for them to learn and adapt.

SUGGESTION

In this research, it is hoped that future researchers can develop language differences in the university environment by exploring how language diversity at universities affects student adaptation and analyzing effective communication strategies from different regions and more diverse universities.

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